

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:JAKLEMSTINE:FJTATU:LRR

APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT H. MILLER

EA/TB - MR. ROBERTS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056666

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT WITH KHUKRIT PRAMOT

REF: A. BANGKOK 4195; B. BANGKOK 4120

1. DURING YOUR CALL ON KHUKRIT YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE HAVE NOTED STATEMENTS CONCERNING U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY THE PRESS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT HE AND HIS CABINET WILL SEE THE ADVANTAGE IN NOT BEING LOCKED IN BY A PUBLIC POSITION AND THUS WILL NOT FEEL CONSTRAINED TO MAKE THIS MATTER PART OF THEIR POLICY STATEMENT BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY. WE REMAIN READY, AS WE HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST, TO WITHDRAW OUR TROOP PRESENCE ON THE BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS AND MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE RTG. WE WOULD AGAIN HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DONE IN PRECIPITOUS MANNER WHICH COULD PROVE DELETERIOUS TO THAI AS WELL AS U.S. INTERESTS AND TO THE STABILITY OF THE REGION.

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2. SINCE KHUKRIT HAS NOT BEEN SWORN IN BY THE KING NOR HAS

HIS CABINET SLATE OR POLICY STATEMENT BEEN ACCORDED A CONFIDENCE VOTE BY PARLIAMENT, HE IS NOT YET A FULLY CONSTITUTED PRIME MINISTER. YOU SHOULD THUS NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS NUMBERS, DATES, OR ANY OTHER DETAILS OF WITHDRAWAL PLANS. YOU MAY AFFIRM TO HIM, HOWEVER, THAT ONCE THERE IS LANS. YOU MAY AFFIRM TO HIM, HOWEVER, THAT ONCE THERE IS A FULLY AND PROPERLY CONSTITUTED THAI GOVERNMENT WE WOULD WANT TO NEGOTIATE THE SPECIFICS OF THE FUTURE OF OUR TROOP PRESENCE.

3. THE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED THE TEMCO ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR ANAN MARCH 13, APPRAISING HIM OF OUR SERIOUS CONCERN. YOU SHOULD REITERATE THIS WITH KHUKRIT. WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS A MOVE TO EXPROPRIATE TEMCO WOULD HAVE ON THAILAND'S INVESTMENT OUTLOOK AND FOR ITS FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS THE PROBLEM OF OPIC INSURANCE GUARANTEES AND FUTURE ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIAL TRADE PREFERENCES (GSP).

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT OUR DESIRE TO REACH SOME ACCOMMODATION ON THE COTTON CONTRACT PROBLEM, NOTING THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE ROC (STATE 055961 TO TAIPEI RPTD INFO BANGKOK). INGERSOLL

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